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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/046,042	MOK, STEVEN SIONG CHEAK
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Virgil Herring	2132

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-4,6,7 and 10-32 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-4,6,7 and 10-32 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 25 November 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This action is responsive to the communication filed on November 25, 2005.

Claims 1-4, 6-7, and 10-32, directed to a security system for facilitating transponder carrier identification and tracking within a secure area are pending. The cancellation of claims 5, 8, and 9 is noted. Claims 1-4, 6-7, and 10-32 are rejected.

Response to Amendments

The examiner accepts the amendments to the drawings, abstract, and specification, and the objections of the prior office action are thus withdrawn.

With respect to the claim objections of the prior office action, the examiner considers the amendments acceptable to overcome the objections.

With respect to the rejections under 35 USC §101 & §112, the examiner considers the amendment to claim 23 sufficient to overcome the rejection.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-4, 6-7, and 10-32 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Carroll et al (US Patent #4,952,928).

With regards to claim 25, Carroll et al disclose an RF transponder reader operable to send an interrogation signal to an RF transponder having a unique identifier and receive from the transponder, in response to the interrogation signal, the unique identifier, the reader being operable to transmit the unique identifier to a security processor for identity verification; (Col. 2, Lines 20-30)

wherein the location of the transponder is determined from the location of the transponder reader. (Col. 2, Lines 41-47)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4, 6-7, 10-29, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carroll et al (US Patent #4,952,928) in view of Belcher et al (US Patent #6,393,045).

With regards to claim 1, Carroll et al (US Patent #4,952,928) disclose a security system for facilitating transponder carrier identification and tracking within a secure area comprising:

an RF transponder having a memory in which is stored a unique identifier;
(Col. 2, Lines 20-23)

the transponder including a transmitter to transmit the unique identifier;
(Col. 2, Lines 20-23)

a transponder reader to receive from the transponder at least the unique identifier of the transponder; (Col. 2, Lines 25-30)

such that the transponder reader interrogates the transponder and, in response to the interrogation, receives from the transponder at least the unique identifier of the transponder; (Col. 2, Lines 20-23)

wherein the location of the transponder is determined from the location of the transponder reader. (Col. 2, Lines 41-47)

However, Carroll et al do not expressly disclose a security system for facilitating transponder carrier identification and tracking within a secure area comprising:

a transponder writer operable to send a replacement unique identifier to the transponder, the transponder replacing the identifier in the transponder memory with the replacement identifier;

However, Belcher et al (US Patent #6,393,045) teach a way to differentiate between operations that read from or write to memory contained within a transponder tag (Col. 6, Lines 32-38). Belcher et al and Carroll et al are analogous art because both involve interrogating a transponder and receiving, in response, a unique identifier which indicates the subject to which the transponder is affixed. In light of the teachings of Belcher et al, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to use a transponder with a writable memory in the identification and tracking system disclosed by Carroll et al. The motivation for doing so would have been "for on-the-fly applications" (Belcher et al, Col. 9, Lines 55-59). The examiner notes that, although the Belcher et al teach the use of magnetic field links rather than radio communications, the system is still used to write data to a memory device contained within an electronic transponder.

The examiner notes that claim 1 incorporates all the limitations of claims 24 and 30. Thus, claims 24 and 30 are rejected on the same grounds as claim 1.

With regards to claim 2, the combination of Carroll et al and Belcher et al as described above includes (from Carroll) a security system according to claim 1, wherein the transponder has a fixed unit identifier serving to identify the transponder, the fixed

unit identifier being a separate identifier to the unique identifier. (Col. 4, Lines 56-60 discuss an encoded signal that identifies the person being monitored; Col. 7, Lines 59-64 discuss a code that identifies the tag itself)

With regards to claim 3, the combination of Carroll et al and Belcher et al as described above includes (from Carroll) a security system according to claim 2, wherein the unique identifier comprises an identity code. (Col. 7, Lines 59-64)

With regards to claim 4, the combination of Carroll et al and Belcher et al as described above includes a security system according to claim 1, wherein the unique identifier is encrypted and assigned by a security processor. (This feature is inherent to the combination. The system of Carroll is used for tracking prisoners, so the assignment of transponder codes would be done by security personnel from the prison, using a transponder writer.)

With regards to claim 6, the combination of Carroll et al and Belcher et al as described above includes (from Carroll) a security system according to claim 1, wherein the transmitter is a contactless transmitter operable to transmit RF signals. (Col. 1, Lines 53-57)

With regards to claim 7, the combination of Carroll et al and Belcher et al as described above includes (from Carroll) a security system according to claim 1, wherein

the transmitter is a contact transmitter operable to send signals to a unit in contact with the transponder. (Col. 10, Lines 34-36)

With regards to claim 10, the combination of Carroll et al and Belcher et al as described above includes (from Carroll) a security system according to claim 1, wherein the transponder reader is mounted within the secure area and has a location code which provides information as to the location of the transponder reader. (Col. 2, Lines 42-48; a large monitored area with a plurality of field monitoring devices would inherently include information about where the FMD is located)

With regards to claim 11, the combination of Carroll et al and Belcher et al as described above includes (from Carroll) a security system according to claim 10, wherein the transponder reader is portable and operable within the secure area. (Col 2, Lines 26-31; if the FMD is to be placed "at the location where the individual is to be confined," it must be portable in order to get there)

With regards to claim 12, the combination of Carroll et al and Belcher et al as described above includes (from Carroll) a security system according to claim 1, wherein the transponder reader has a predetermined interrogation range such that a transponder within the interrogation range will receive an interrogation signal from the reader and will respond thereto by sending its unique identifier, and so determine the location of the transponder. (Col. 2, Lines 20-23)

With regards to claim 13, the combination of Carroll et al and Belcher et al as described above includes (from Carroll) a security system according to claim 1, further comprising a security processor having an access database setting out access parameters for the secure area and a carrier of a transponder, the security processor being operable to receive information from the transponder reader comprising at least the unique identifier of an interrogated transponder and the location of the transponder reader. (Col. 2, Lines 41-47; As disclosed, the "central computer" stores information relating when a transponder is supposed to be near a specific FMD out of a large number of possible FMDs.)

With regards to claim 14, the combination of Carroll et al and Belcher et al as described above includes (from Carroll) a security system according to claim 13, wherein the security processor determines from consultation of the access database whether the carrier is authorized to be in the vicinity of the interrogating transponder reader and further determines what, if any, action needs to be taken. (Col. 2, Lines 47-52; Because the system is used for tracking parolees or those under house arrest, it is inherent that violations of the predetermined guidelines as to where the person is allowed to be would result in notification of the authorities.)

With regards to claim 15, the combination of Carroll et al and Belcher et al as described above includes (from Carroll) a security system according to claim 13, further comprising an actuator controllable by the security processor to affect operation of a

device in response to a condition determined by the security processor. (Col. 10, Lines 36-38)

With regards to claim 16, the combination of Carroll et al and Belcher et al as described above includes (from Carroll) a security system according to claim 15, wherein the device activated by the actuator is selected from the group consisting of: an image capture device; an alarm; an alert system; a lock; an emergency door release; a speaker; and a communication device. (Col. 1, Lines 25-29; Because the disclosure of column 1 discusses the use of transponder tracking for the purpose of “confining [an] individual to a designated area,” attempts to leave that area would inherently result in the activation of an alarm, an alert system, a lock (specifically, unlocking a door so security personnel can enter the area), a speaker (specifically, the speaker on a portable radio carried by security personnel), and a communication device (the aforementioned portable radio). (Col. 10, Lines 36-38 specifically mentions a video capture device)

With regards to claim 17, the combination of Carroll et al and Belcher et al as described above includes (from Carroll) a security system according to claim 1, wherein the transponder is configured as a card having a contact terminal. (Col. 10, Lines 34-36)

With regards to claim 18, the combination of Carroll et al and Belcher et al as described above includes a security system according to claim 17, wherein a card

reader/writer is provided having a contact region compatible with the card contact terminal, wherein the transponder is addressable by the card reader when the terminal and contact region are in contact with one another. (Carroll et al Col. 10, Lines 34-36, wherein the "holding receptacle" that reads the transponder is modified to include writing to the transponder as taught by Belcher et al.)

With regards to claim 19, the combination of Carroll et al and Belcher et al as described above includes (from Belcher) a security system according to claim 18, wherein the card reader/writer is operable to write the replacement unique identifier to the transponder. (Col. 6, Lines 32-38)

With regards to claim 20, the combination of Carroll et al and Belcher et al as described above includes a security system according to claim 18, wherein the card reader/writer is integrated with an identification authentication device so as to authenticate the identity of a carrier of the transponder prior to writing a replacement unique identifier to the transponder of the carrier. (Carroll et al, Col. 10, Lines 35-47, wherein the transponder reader is a reader/writer as taught by Belcher et al)

With regards to claim 21, the combination of Carroll et al and Belcher et al as described above includes a security system according to claim 1, wherein the carrier is selected from the group consisting of: personnel (Carroll et al, Col. 1, Lines 23-25); a

vehicle (Belcher et al, Col. 1, Line 31, wherein the shipping container implies the presence of a vehicle); and a hardware product (Belcher et al, Col. 1, Lines 30-31).

With regards to claim 22, the combination of Carroll et al and Belcher et al as described above includes a security system according to claim 1, wherein the unique identifier has an expiry time after which the unique identifier is no longer valid. (The combination as currently described includes a reader/writer that the carrier must be nearby either constantly or at a certain time. In the case of the check-in time, the unique identifier would expire at that time, while the carrier is close enough to the writer to receive a new unique identifier.)

With regards to claim 23, the combination of Carroll et al and Belcher et al as described above includes a security system according to claim 1, wherein communication between at least some of the components of the system is enabled by one or more of the Internet, wireless connection, hardwire connection, and intranet. (The combination as described uses wireless transponders. At column 2, lines 36-40 of Carroll et al, the field monitoring device uses a hard-wired telephone connection to transmit information over the Internet to a central computer. Column 9, lines 16-25 of Carroll et al also discloses other computers connected to the central computer to form a local network with the central computer, in other words, an intranet).

With regards to claim 26, the combination of Carroll et al and Belcher et al as described above includes (from Carroll) a transponder reader according to claim 25, wherein the reader is a portable unit. (Col. 2, Lines 25-31)

With regards to claim 29, the combination of Carroll et al and Belcher et al as described above includes (from Carroll) an RF transponder reader according to claim 25, wherein the reader incorporates a cellular telephone system. (Col. 19, Lines 51-54)

With regards to claim 31, the combination of Carroll et al and Belcher et al as described above includes (from Carroll) a security system according to claim 20 wherein the identity authentication device includes any one or a combination of: a keypad to receive an alphanumeric code or biometric authenticator, such as a finger print or retinal scanner. (Col. 10, Lines 61-64; The examiner notes that alphanumeric passwords were used in security long before biometrics, and thus would also have been envisioned by Carroll et al for the identification of a carrier of a transponder.)

Claims 27, 28, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carroll et al (US Patent #4,952,928) in view of Belcher et al (US Patent #6,393,045) and further in view of Chien (US Patent #6,512,478).

With regards to claim 27, the combination of Carroll et al and Belcher et al as described above does not include an RF transponder reader according to claim 25, wherein the reader is integrated with a data archiving system.

However, Chien teaches a position location system for tracking an RF transponder tag wherein a base station for interrogating the tags can be embodied as a laptop computer or PDA (Col. 7, Lines 30-33). The examiner notes that laptop computers and PDAs are both electronic systems for archiving data, either in a hard drive or in memory. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to apply the teachings of Chien to the combination of Carroll et al and Belcher et al, the field monitoring device of Carroll et al would be embodied as a data archiving device, such as a laptop computer or PDA, as taught by Chien. The motivation for this combination would have been to provide a monitoring device that could take advantage of Internet-ready wireless devices. (Chien, Col. 15, Lines 23-25)

With regards to claim 28, the combination of Carroll et al and Belcher et al, further modified by the teachings of Chien as described above would include (from Chien) an RF transponder reader according to claim 27, wherein the data archiving system is a personal digital assistant. (Col. 7, Lines 30-33)

With regards to claim 32, the combination of Carroll et al and Belcher et al as described above does not include a security system according to claim 1 wherein the

transponder reader further includes a motion detector, such that on detection of movement within a detection zone, the transponder reader sends an interrogation signal to determine an identity of a user causing the movement.

However, Chien teaches a position location system for tracking an RF transponder wherein the transponder tag can conserve power by limiting its transmissions to times when it detects itself moving (Col. 25, Lines 42-44). Carroll et al disclose that transponders can be either active (internal power supply and constant transmission) or passive (inductive power supply, and only transmits when near a reader). Clearly, a passive transponder would not employ a motion detection system in the transponder itself. However, at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to apply the teachings of Chien in a transponder tracking system such as the one disclosed by Carroll et al by using motion detectors in the tags themselves for active transponders, and using motion detectors in the field monitoring devices for passive transponders. The motivation for doing so would have been to conserve power by only communicating during periods of activity (Col. 25, Lines 42-44).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Virgil Herring whose telephone number is (571) 272-8189. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron can be reached on (571) 272-3799. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Virgil Herring
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